

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2009

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Doug Greenfield, Eric Aranow, and Chad Gibson were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

Introductions and reports on recent events. Jack told us about the Boston Bicycling Program updates. He learned about the latest plans for the program while attending a presentation by the program director Nicole Freedman. He told us that her talk was a upbeat assessment of Boston's progress on bicycling advocacy. Nicole reported that roads that cross bridges to Cambridge carry the highest amount of bicycle traffic of any roads in Boston and that Boston's bike-sharing program will hopefully be starting in 2010.

*The minutes from December and January were approved, with two minor wording corrections to the January minutes.

Discuss ABAC plans for 2009 and beyond, including developing a master bicycle plan for Arlington. We went over Jack's typed-up notes taken at ABAC's planning meeting last month, and we accepted the notes. We discussed what the next step should be. We came up with the idea of devising a Bicycling Master Plan for Arlington. We could start with the five Es, bike infrastructure, and project planning and tracking. Scott suggested that we create a wiki. Chad asked what the purpose of the plan would be. Jack answered that it could formalize our relationship with other town departments. Joey suggested involving MassBike and developing a model for other communities to use.

Ron thought we should think about some basic guiding principles like a preamble followed by a list of specific projects. Chad, Jack, Jeff, and Scott will look into bike plans from other communities.

Jack would like to set up generic templates that can be used to manage and track future projects. We spent some time discussing software solutions. We decided to keep it as simple as possible. Chad and Eric will design templates for the projects that they are interested in, using Microsoft Word. Doug will work on maps for the projects. His first map will be a Google map showing the locations of all the bicycle racks in Arlington.

Discuss ABAC Board presentation updates for our Winter Social on Thursday night, February 26. Representative Will Brownsberger and David Watson are confirmed as special guest speakers. The Whittemore-Robbins House was double-booked, so this year we will only have the main room. Stephan and Christopher will provide refreshments. Will Brownsberger and David Watson have confirmed that they will be

speaking. Jeff will give a brief update on bike lanes, wide shoulders, and bikeway plowing. Jack will also do a brief introductory talk.

Review process for contacting local businesses regarding proposed bike-rack installations in business districts. We need to contact local businesses adjacent to our proposed bike-rack installations. Jack will create a handout with all the relevant information that can be left at the business if the owner or manager is not present. Jack will also divide the areas of the town and assign the volunteers.

Discuss Open Space Committee's concerns regarding bikeway encroachments. Joey told us that the Open Space Committee is concerned about landscape encroachments along the bikeway in Arlington. Since it is the bikeway, they want us to send a letter to the abutter warning that they were encroaching. We hope that this would also prevent future encroachments. Joey asked for an endorsement of the idea. The Open Space Committee will draft a letter and ABAC will review it.

Open Forum: discussion of other related topics. Eric brought us up to date on the Safe Routes to School issues. The TAC has voted unanimously in favor of the project. A few weeks later representatives of TAC and the School Committee met with the principal of the Hardy School. The principal agreed to a pilot project but would not consent to a bike rack on school property. The biggest challenge will be to find parent volunteers to run the program at this school.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47.

*denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller